



A World of Knowledge

**MAIN LIBRARY
CATAWBA COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM
115 West C Street
Newton, NC 28658**

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Local history talks planned at library

NEWTON—Balls Creek Campground and Soldiers Reunion will be topics of two local history talks next month at Catawba County Library in Newton.

Sidney Halma, history consultant, author and former executive director of the Catawba County Historical Association, will join Sylvia Ray, local journalist and historian, for two evenings of anecdotes and historical facts concerning the local traditions.

The Balls Creek talk will begin at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 4. Soldiers Reunion will be the topic at 5:30 p.m. on Aug. 11. Both programs are free and open to the public.

Balls Creek Campground, founded by Methodists in 1853, will be open from Aug. 9-23 this year. The complex is located on Buffalo Shoals Road southeast of Newton. The grounds, religious services and family fellowship time revolve around an open-air arbor and wooden “tents.” The place is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Soldiers Reunion is one of the longest running events of its kind in the United States. Initiated in 1889 for Confederate veterans, the celebration has expanded over time to salute veterans of later wars with patriotic speeches, a parade, food, music, dancing, contests, classic cars and a long parade which will be held this year at 5 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 20.

Catawba County Library System has a variety of local history sources for further reading including histories co-authored by Halma as well as monographs, photos and other resources within the Rhodes Local History Room. For more information, call the Main Library at 464-8664.

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